

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 11, 15, 21 and 26-41 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 9, 11, 15 and 21 have been amended herein. Claims 2, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16-20 and 22-25 have been canceled, and claims 26-41 have been newly added. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 8, 10 and 21 subject to being amended to independent form.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 8, and amended the remaining claims consistent with such amendment. In addition, allowable claims 10 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form as claims 26 and 34, respectively. New claims 25-33 and 35-41 have been added simply to round out the dependent claim coverage with respect to new claims 26 and 34.

In view of the above amendments, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Mark D. Saralino/

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